(a) whether the Central Bureau of investigation has made any inquiry into the huge losses suffered by the Food Corporation of India during transit from the Ramnagar godown at Silchar;

(b) if so, the actual amount of losses suffered by the FCI so far in this regard;

(c) whether some FCI officials have been identified as being responsible for these losses;

(d) if so, the details of such officials and the total period during which they remained posted at the Silchar depot; and

(e) the action Government have taken or propose to take against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Questions do not arise.

**De-reservation of Minerals**

*146. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for de-reservation of all the minerals now reserved for the public sector, to facilitate investment by N. R. Is; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALARAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government are reviewing the position to examine whether some minerals now reserved for the public sector should be de-reserved.

**Education Bank**

*147. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 617 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are pursuing the policy of self financed higher education;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to arrange soft loans from banks for the poor and middle class students, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the girl students of lower classes would be given concession in fees; and

(d) whether Government have received any suggestions directly or through media to start Education Bank?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Government's policy on financing of education is spelt out in the National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE), which postulates that "Resources, to the extent possible, will be raised by mobilishing donations asking the benficiary communities to maintain school buildings and supplies of some consumables, raising fees at the higher levels of education and effecting some savings by the efficient use of facilities. Institutions involved with research and the development of technical and scientific manpower should also mobilize some funds by levying a cess or charge on the user agencies, including Government departments, and entrepreneurs. All these measurs will be taken not only to reduce the burden on State resources but also for creating a greater sense of responsibility within the educational system".

(b) Commerical Banks are already providing need-based finance under the "Educational Loans" scheme.